

for
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INFO

City of Sugar Land U.S. 59 Hotline **281-276-9959**
(or visit www.ci.sugar-land.tx.us)
TxDOT Public Information Hotline **713-802-5074**
(Press 1 for road closures)



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PARTNERSHIP for PROGRESS

U.S. Highway 59 Expansion Project Update 2001: A Project of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

► STATE HIGHWAY 6 TO SUGAR CREEK BOULEVARD: TWO YEARS DOWN, ONE TO GO

With the second year of road construction behind us in Sugar Land, the U.S. 59 expansion project is well underway, and the end is in sight. We're headed for the goal of late summer 2002, when drivers will enjoy a total of eight continuous northbound and southbound main lanes from State Highway 6 to southwest Houston and one diamond lane in each direction. *(continued inside)*



City of Sugar Land



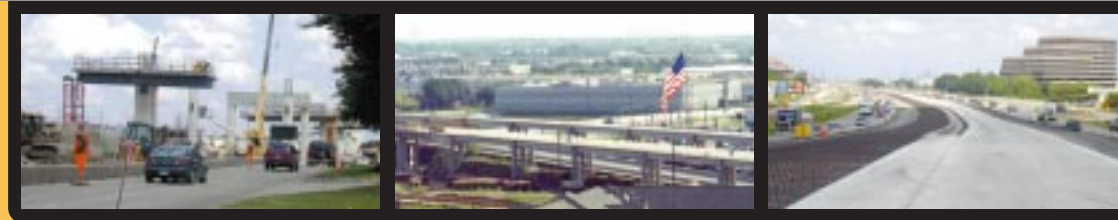
(Continued from cover)

TWO YEARS DOWN, ONE TO GO

Recently completed milestones to celebrate in Sugar Land include the opening of the northbound and southbound frontage roads over Oyster Creek and the nearly completed ashlar stone sound walls between Commerce Green and Sugar Lakes Drive.

The contractor has been placing concrete within the old median between Sugar Creek and Highway 6 as part of the expansion project. The plan is to switch traffic from the existing old pavement onto this new pavement in the median prior to the Thanksgiving holidays. This will enable the contractor to remove and replace the old main lane pavement, providing an ultimate increase in the number of lanes. Traffic will also switch to the outside of the new bridge structure on U.S. 59 over U.S. 90A. This will allow the existing main lanes of U.S. 59 to be demolished and reconstructed at the higher elevation.

At this date, the Texas Department of Transportation



(TxDOT) tentatively plans on the reconstruction of the Highway 6 intersection to take place after the holiday season. This includes Highway 6 under U.S. 59, as well as the frontage road approach lanes to Highway 6. The actual reconstruction of this intersection will be less than ideal; however, TxDOT has ensured the City that this phase of construction will be "fast-tracked" to accelerate the construction schedule and to minimize the inconvenience to the public. During construction, motorists will be encouraged to utilize alternative routes.

Motorists will ultimately see great benefits from the construction at Highway 6. The number of lanes on Highway 6 under the U.S. 59 bridge will be increased from eight lanes to 10. The frontage road approach lanes to Highway 6 will be increased from three to six lanes. By the end of the current construction project, U-turn lanes will be placed at all major intersections under U.S. 59 allowing drivers to bypass the intersections and their related traffic signals. Also, this project will include an extra wide HOV/diamond lane on the freeway in each direction.



► **U.S. 59/U.S. 90A INTERCHANGE: STATE TARGETS 2003**

During the next two years, work will continue on the U.S. 59/U.S. 90A interchange, as well as frontage roads from Kirkwood to Sugar Creek Boulevard. When completed, drivers will be able to exit U.S. 59 to frontage roads that adjoin U.S. 90A. This tri-level interchange, similar in layout to Beltway 8 and U.S. 90A, will feature:

- U.S. 59 at the top level;
- Depressed frontage roads at the lower level; and
- U.S. 90A main lanes and railroad tracks at ground level.

The outside lanes of the U.S. 59 bridge over U.S. 90A are currently under construction. This phase of the project illustrates that the new bridge structure will be wider, longer and higher. The columns are a non-standard shape with ornamental indentations which are exclusive to Sugar Land in the Houston metro area.



According to TxDOT, the main lanes of U.S. 59 between Kirkwood and Highway 6 are scheduled for completion during 2002. However, work will continue on U.S. 90A, the frontage roads, and the nearby railroad tracks until mid-2003. Periodic lane shifts and non-rush hour lane closures will be the norm.

► **IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW**

Motorists are encouraged to be patient, aware of merging lanes and to drive with caution in the construction zone. The City of Sugar Land is assisting TxDOT with its expansion project through the following efforts to minimize traffic delays:

- Notifications of road closures included in local newspapers
- Traffic signals manually adjusted to accommodate traffic volume when necessary
- Police officers available to direct traffic during lane closures, if necessary
- Weekday updates of road closures on U.S. 59 hotline (281-276-9959)

► **GET A JUMP ON YOUR WORK OR READ THE NEWSPAPER DURING RUSH HOUR WITH TREKEXPRESS**

Round-trip shuttle transportation from AMC First Colony Theatres, as well as the West Bellfort Park and Ride, to Uptown and near the Galleria

- Five 29-passenger shuttle busses make 10 trips each weekday morning and evening
- Trips run every 20 minutes: 5:45-8:45 a.m. and 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- Purchase 40 and 20-ride ticketbooks from Kroger on Sweetwater or from TREK
- Exact cash fares of \$2 from AMC and \$1.75 from West Bellfort also accepted

For additional information, contact TREK at 713-965-1711

TREK is the non-profit transportation management organization composed of companies in the Galleria and Greenway Plaza. Its mission is to provide more transportation opportunities to workers in these areas—a third of whom live in Fort Bend County and southwest Houston.

► **U.S. 59 BEAUTIFICATION**

In accordance with Sugar Land's Urban Beautification Policy, the City will pursue landscaping improvements along U.S. 59 as part of TxDOT's Landscape Cost Share Program. The landscaping, which would be added following the completion of the highway's expansion, could include a variety of trees, shrubs and ground cover plantings, with more concentrated arrangements located at intersections along the highway. In addition to the landscaping, a decorative monument marker denoting the entrance to Sugar Land is planned at U.S. 59 at U.S. 90A in addition to other major entrances to the City. As a final signature feature, the U.S. 59/U.S. 90A intersection is proposed to include a stately clock tower, visible from the highway.



► **COUNTDOWN TO COMPLETION**

U.S. 59 Milestones to Celebrate

- Williams Trace Boulevard/Sugar Lakes Drive segment under U.S. 59 near completion
- Oyster Creek frontage roads between Highway 6 and Williams Trace Boulevard open
- All U.S. 59 main lanes from Kirkwood Drive to the Harris County line open in both directions
- Ashlar stone sound walls between Commerce Green Boulevard and Sugar Lakes Drive near completion

Milestones on the Horizon

- Thanksgiving 2001: Traffic to be switched to new pavement for the U.S. 59 main lanes
- Early 2002: Reconstruction of Highway 6 at U.S. 59 to be completed
- 2002: U.S. 59 main lanes over U.S. 90A to be completed
- 2002: U.S. 59 main lanes and frontage roads from Sugar Creek Boulevard to Highway 6 to be completed
- 2003: Frontage roads between Kirkwood Drive and Sugar Creek Boulevard, including U.S. 90A main lanes and the railroad crossing to be completed

In tandem with the U.S. 59 expansion, Sugar Land continues to make improvements to alternate routes.

Other Mobility Projects to Celebrate

- Additional turn lanes added at intersection of Dulles Avenue and Lexington Boulevard
- An exclusive right turn lane added at intersection of Lexington Boulevard and Highway 6, as well as intersection of Dulles Avenue and Highway 6
- Overpass at Sweetwater Boulevard and U.S. 59 will be re-stripped to accommodate four lanes by Thanksgiving 2001

Other Mobility Projects on the Horizon

- Construction will begin on West Airport Boulevard between Eldridge Road and Highway 6
- Construction begins in Spring 2002 on University Boulevard to connect Commonwealth Boulevard to U.S. 59 near the new University of Houston-Sugar Land campus
- 2003: Construction to begin on project currently being designed for Highway 6 between First Colony Boulevard/ Brooks Street to north of U.S. 90A. This project will expand Highway 6 from four lanes to six lanes and will include a bridge over U.S. 90A, the railroad tracks and University Boulevard

Three-dimensional Models of U.S. 59/Highway 6 and the U.S. 59/U.S. 90A intersections are available for display at your business. For details, please call (281) 275-2816.